

THE
COPPIE OF
SIR VVILLIAM

Erskin and Iohn Meldrum,

*their Letters Patents for
the Lights at Winterton.*



LONDON,
Printed by *William Iones* dwelling in Red-crosse-
streete, 1618.

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1900-1901



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William Erskin and Iohn Meldrum,
their Letters Patents for the Lights
at Winterton.



AMES by the grace of God,
King of England, Scotland,
France and Ireland Defender
of the faith &c.

To all to whom these pre-
sents shall come, greeting.
Whereas wee haue bin lately
informed, that the Seas neere
and about the parts of Winter-
tonnesse in our County of Nor-

folke are of great danger and perill for passing of
Ships sayling vnto the North Coast in darke and
foule nights, by reason of a Sand lying in length
from the maine land two furlongs or there abouts,
vpon the which of late yeares many great losses haue
happened to our Subiects sayling neere the same
Coast, as well by the lamentable wracke of diuers
Ships there as by the losse of many of our subiects
their liues and goods, which haue bene occasioned
by the want of Light howles and lights that might
haue bene prouided and set vp, at or as neere the

said Resse for direction of Saylers trading or pas-
 sing to and fro those parts which by the helpe of such
 Light-houses and lights might haue well bin saved
 and preuented. And that for the scaping and pre-
 uenting of the dangers of those parts for the time to
 come, it is very conuenient and necessarie that light-
 houses should be there erected with lights therein
 continually burning, and maintained in the night
 time, for the direction and safe conduct of Shippes
 passing by or alongst the said coast in the night time
 in darke and fowle nights, and that almost all the
 masters and owners of Shippinge, trading to our
 Towne of Newcastle for Coales, fishermen and o-
 ther Maisters and Owners of other shipping, tra-
 trading vppon the said North coast, haue heretofore
 greatly desired the erection of light-houses & lights
 there to be set vp and maintayned, and haue offered
 to contribute for, and towards the erection and con-
 tinual maintenance of the same, as by an inquisition
 or certificate taken at the Cittie of Norwich in the
 Countie of Norffolke the eight day of Ianuarie last past
 before Iohn Corbett, Iohn Smith, Owen Sheppard,
 and Roger Godsalue, Esquires: our Commissioners
 by vertue of Our Commission vnder our great
 seale of England, baring date at Westminster the six-
 teenth day of December last past, vnto them and o-
 thers directed by the oathes of sundry good & law-
 full men of our Townes of great Yarmouth and
 Winterton in the said Countie, and returned into and
 remaining of record in our Court of Chancery: a-
 mongst other things more at large it doth and may
 more appeare. Wee therefore out of our princely
 of-

office and care intending heereafter to provide for
as well the safety of the liues and goods of our sub-
jects & others as of the shipping of our Kingdomes,
(being a principall honour & strength of the same)
and unwilling that our louing subjects and others
passing by the said North Coast should vndergoe &
continue still vnder the danger and hazard of the
said perilous Sands whereunto by woefull experi-
ence they haue heretofore beene too much subiect.
And hauing beene enformed by our learned Coun-
sell that the erection and mayntenance of such Light-
houses and Lights in places needfull for the safetie of
our subjects, is a right and power remaining in vs,
notwithstanding the power or authoritie heretofore
giuen by the statute made in the eight yeare of the
Reigne of our late Deere Sister Queene Elizabeth to
the Maister, Wardens, and Assistants of the Trini-
tie-house of Debtford Strond for erecting of Beacons,
Signes, and Sea markes, haue thought fit and necessa-
rie, and by these presents wee doe for vs, our Heirs &
successors, will ordaine and appoynt that some one
or moze conuenient Lighthouse or Lighthouses shall
be erected made and set vp, at or neere such fit and
conuenient place or places at or within the space of
two miles of Winterton aforesaid as by the persons
heereafter by vs named & authorised in that behalfe
their Executors, Administrators or Assignes their
Substitute or Substitutes or some or one of them shall
be thought meete and necessarie from time to time
and that continually in the night season in darke &
foule nights sufficient lights shall therein by the
persons hereafter named their Executors or As-
signes

signes, substitute or substitutes, or some or one of them and at their proper costs and charges from time to time be kept and maintained for the direction, condition, and preservation of Ships, Hoves, Barkes, fishermen or other vessels whatsoever which shall saile or passe by or alongst the said North Coast, and that as well the said Lighthouse or Lighthouses which shal hereafter be by them so built and erected, shall or may from time to time by the said persons hereafter by vs named and appoynted their Executors, Administrators, or Assignes, substitute or substitutes bee altered, renewed, remoued, and changed as by the accidents and moouables, and channels at or neere Wintertonesse aforesaid shal or may require for the safer conduction & guiding of Saylers ships, fisher barkes, and other vessels whatsoever, passing or repassing from Port to Port, by or alongst the said Coast as well by night as by day.

And for asmuch as the erection, reparation, removing, changing, and continuall maynteyning of the said Light-houses and Lights in the same there will from time to time require a great and continuall charge for the supportation and maintenance of the same. Wee will, ordaine, and appoynt for vs our Heyres and Successors that there shall be collected and taken of an for every Shippe, Hov, Barke, fisherman, or other vessel whatsoever that shall passe from porte to porte by or alongst the said North Coast a duty or payment of one penny vppon the Tunne according to the burthen of the said shippe, Hov, Barke or vessel, in the whole voyage
out=

outward and inward, (that is to saye) one halfe penny vpon euery Tunne for the said whole voyage outward and inward of and from the Masters or owners of such Shippes, Barkes, Hopes, and vessells & one other halfe penny vpon euery Tunne as aforesaid of and from the Marchants or owners of the goods in the said Shippes, Barkes, Hopes or vessells for the time being, which said dutie or payment of one penny to be paid vpon euery Tunne as aforesaide wee will shall bee deliuered and payed to the hands of such officer and officers or other person or persons as the persons hereafter named, or either of either of them, their, or eyther of their executors Administrators or assignes or any of them shall nominate, depute and appoynt in any our custome houses, to receiue and take the same by the Masters and owners of the Shippes, Hopes, Barkes or vessells, for the time being, who shall and may lawfully Demaund, receiue, and take the moyetie, or one halfe thereof, according to the true meaning of this our graunt, of, and from the Marchants & owners of the goods in the Ships, Hopes, Barkes and vessells, from time to time, according to the quantitie of the goods & Marchandizes wherewith the said Shippes, Hopes, Barkes or vessells shall be fraught or laden.

And that the said persons hereafter named, their or either of their executors, Administrators or Assignes, substitute or substitutes one or more of them shall or may likewise lawfully Demaund, receiue & take of euery Shippe, Hope, Barke, Fishermen or vessell being the Shippe, Hope, Barke or vessell of
any

any Aliene, Denizen or stranger, not being our naturall borne subiects, that shall happen to sayle, or passe from port to port, by or alongst the sayd North coast, the like dutie of one pennie vpon the Tunne, in the voyage outward and inward, as aforesaid, which we will and ordaine, for vs, our Heires, and Successors, shalbe collected and taken by the persons hereafter named, their Executors, Administrators, Deputies, or Assignes, at or in the Port, Harboz, Creeke, or Roade within in any part of our Dominions where the said Ships, Hopes, Barkes or vessels of any such stranger, shall harbor or put in although the same shippe, or vessel shall not be there vnloaded or dischardged of any the goods or Marchandizes, wherewith it shall be fraught or laden.

And that the same dutie of one pennie vpon the Tunne as aforesaid being once paide, and the receipt thereof being testified by those who shall be appointed to receiue the same, the saide Masters and owners of shippes and other vessels, aswell our naturall borne subiects as strangers, shall be then freed and discharged of and from the payment of the saide dutie, in euery or any Port or Ports in which the saide Shippes or vessels, shall or may happen or come in euery or any such voyage as aforesaid.

KNOW YEE therefore that wee as well in consideration of the premises. as for diuers other good causes & considerations vs hereunto mouing of our speciall grace, certaine knowledge and meere motions, haue giuen and graunted and by these presents for vs, our Heires and Successors, wee doe giue and graunt vnto our trustie and welbeloued
ser=

servants, Sir William Erskine knight, & John Meldrum
 Esquire, their Executors, Administrators and Al-
 ligned, as well in regard of the true, faithfull, and
 acceptable service by the said Sir William Erskine &
 John Meldrum to vs heeretofore done, and as being
 the first suters vnto vs for the erecting & setting up
 of Lighthouses at or neere Winterton aforesaide as
 also for other good causes and considerations vs
 thereunto mouing free libertie, licence, power and
 authoritie, that they or any of them shall and may
 lawfully make, builde, erect set up, remoue, & main-
 taine, or cause to be made, builded, erected, set up,
 remoued and maintained in all such place and pla-
 ces of the said North Coast within the compasse of
 two miles of the Towne of Winterton in our Coun-
 ty of Norfolk as to them shall seeme most fit, need-
 full and requisite, such & so many conuenient Light-
 howses, with continuall Lights to be burning in them
 during all the night time, whereby the said Seafa-
 ring men may take notice and be warned of the dan-
 gers thereabouts and so be the more able to auoide
 and escape them, and the said ships and vessells may
 the better arriue and come into their Ports and Har-
 bors without perill, as to them the said Sir William
 Erskine and John Meldrum, their Executors, Admi-
 nistrators and Alligned or any of them shall be
 thought fit, requisite and needfull.

And for the great and continuall charges to be
 from time susteyned & borne in and about the er-
 ecting and maintaining of the said Lights and Light-
 howses, we doe for vs, our Heires and Successors,
 will ordeine, giue and graunt to the said Sir William

Erskine and Iohn Meldrum their Executors, Administrators, Deputies and Assignes full power and authoritie, that they & every of them shall and may lawfully demande, receiue, haue and take of, and from the Maisters and Owners of Ships, Hovgs, Barkegs, Fisherment, and other Vessells passing or sayling by or amongst the said North Coast one pennie vppon the Tunne according to the burthen of the same Ships or vessels for every whole voyage inward & outward as aforesaid, to be from time to time answered & payd either in such Port or places where the same Ship or Vessel shall be fraught or laden, or else in such Port or place where the same Ship or Vessel shall be discharged and vnladen as aforesaid. Neuerthe lesse our will and pleasure is that for the erection, reparation renewing, removing and continuall mayntenance of all or any such Lighthouse or Lighthouses heretofore erected and set vp or which hereafter shall or may be erected, renewed, altered, removed and mayntained, at or as neere Winterton or within two miles compasse of the same as aforesaid, no other or further dutie or payment to be demaunded or taken of our subiects or others, then the aforesaid dutie or payment of one penny in the Voyage vpon the Tunne outward and inward as aforesaid.

AND WE doe further of our speciall grace, certaine knowledg, & meere motion for vs, our Heires, and successors, giue and grant vnto the said Sir William Erskine & Iohn Meldrum, their Executors, Administrators, and Assignes, full power and authoritie that they and every of them at their wills and plea-

pleasures shall or may lawfully erect, set up, alter, change, renew and remove by or at their proper costs and charges, and by and with the advise and direction of expert and skillfull Seafaring men dwelling or trading upon the aforesaid Coast, such and so many Lights and Lighthouses, at or as neere Winterton aforesaid; or within the compasse of two miles thereof as aforesaid as shall be thought fit & as iust occasion or necessitie shall require. To haue, hold, exercise and enioy the said liberties, licences powers & authorities & the said dutie or payment of one pennie vpon the Tunne as aforesaid before by these presents giuen and granted and euerie of them vnto the said Sir William Erskine and Iohn Meldrum their Executors, Administrators and Assignes, for and during the full end and tearme of fiftie yeares from the date of these presents fully to be compleate and ended.

AND for asmuch as any other order or course cannot well be taken for the due leauing of the said dutie or payment of one pennie vpon the Tunne in the Voyage outward and inward as aforesaid for and towards the effecting & continuance of this so good and necessarie worke, then by appoynting the payment and collection of the same, to be had and made within the Ports, Harbors, Roades and Creekes, vnto the which the said Ships, Barks, and Vessells shall or doe come and abide, we doe by these presents for vs, our Heires and Successors, will ordaine and appoynte & also straightly charge commande, and authorize all and euerie the Customers, Collectors, Controulers, Receiuers of entries

of Ships, Water-baylife and all other the officers
 whatsoeuer of and concerning the Customes to vs,
 our Heires & Successors, and al other the Wardens
 or keepers of any our Hauens and Ports now be-
 ing, and which from the time hereafter shall be as
 well in our seuerall Ports of London & New-castle,
 as in all & cuery other the Ports, Harbours, Creekes,
 Roades, and places within our Realme of England,
 to whome it shall or may appertaine, that they or
 some of them being first lawfully deputed & appoy-
 nted by the said persons herein befoze named their
 Executors, Administrators or Assignes or some of
 them for the leuying and receiuing the said dutie of
 one pennie vpon the Tunne as afoze said from time
 to time & at al times hereafter during the said terme
 of fiftie yeares befoze such time as they or any of the
 shall or may giue any Cocket or other discharge
 whatsoeuer, or befoze they shall receiue or take any
 entrie respectiue of or for any Ship, Barke or Vef-
 sell which hereafter shall passe or repasse by or a-
 longst the North Coast afozesaid shall Demaund, col-
 lect and receiue the said dutie and allowance of one
 pennie vpon the Tonne in the voyage, outward &
 inward herein befoze specified, respectiue of and
 for all and euery such Ship, Hoy, Barke, or Vef-
 sell, belonging to any Merchant, fishermen, or o-
 ther person or persons our naturall borne Subiects
 Denizens and Strangers as shall sayle and trade
 from Port to Port by or along the Coast afozesaide,
 except the Maister or Owner of the same Shippe
 Barke or Vessel shall produce and shew forth a re-
 ceipt or acquittance of and for the payment of the
 said

said dutie vnder the hand and seale of such officer or officers as shall be deputed and appoynted by the said persons herein before named, their Executors, Administrators or Assignes in euery or any such Customehouse or place from whence the said Ship or Vessell shall come testifying the payment and receipt thereof to be there duly had and made.

And that all and euery such Customer, collector, or other officer in our said Customehouses to be appoynted and deputed as aforesaid, shall yeald and make iust and true accomptes and payments, of all and ebery such collectors, sume & somes of money, as by him, them, or any of them, shall be collected or receiued from time to time, vnto the said Sir William Erskine Knight, and Iohn Meldrum, their Executors Administrators or Assignes, to be by them either or any of them, receiued and reteyned to their owne proper vse and behoofe, for and in respect of their great and continuall charges, to be susteyned and borne, in erecting, renewing, altering reynouing and continuall maynteyning of the said light-houses and lights, in the night season as aforesaid, without any accompt or other thing therfore, or for any parte thereof by them to be made or giuen for the same, other then the yearely rent hereby to vs our Heire & Successors reseued, yealding and paying therfore vnto vs our Heires & Successors, the yearely rent or somme of six pounds therteene shillings & foure pence of lawfull monney of England, at the receipt of our Exchequer at Wellminster, or to our Receiuer or Receiuors, of our Countie of Norffolke for the time being, at the feast of the Annunciation of the blessed

virgine Mary, and at S. Michael the Arch-Angell, by even & equall proportion, during the said terme, or within the xij dayes next after epyth: of the sayd feastes.

And to the end, that the said S. William Erskine and John Mildrum, their Executors, Administrators and Assignes, shall and may the better haue & enioye the full force benifit and effect of this our present graunt. And to the intent and purpose, that the Master Wardens and Assistances of the Trinitie House of Debtford Strond aforesaid, and all others whosoever, may be restrayned during the terme of fiftie yeares aforesaid, from continuing, repairing, renewing remouing & maynteyning, any Light-houle or Light-houses all ready erected and set vp, since March last, within the space of two Miles of the Towne of Winterton aforesaid, and from erecting, & setting vp during the said terme, any other new Light-houle or Light-houses, at or neere the sayd Towne, or within two miles thereof, and of & from the receiuing, hauing or taking, by any wayes, meanes, or pretences whatsoeuer, any collection, contribution, some or sommes of money, whatsoeuer for the same, during the sayd Terme of fiftie yeares before specified, notwithstanding any former course, taken or had, by, or for the said Master Wardens and assistances of the Trinitie house of Debtford Strond aforesaid, for the Light-houses since March last by them erected, at or neere Winterton aforesaid.

Wee doe by these presence, for vs, our Heires and Successors, authorize, the Lords of our Pruiue Councel

Councell for the time being, & we doe also straightly charge, require and command all Mayors, Sheriffs, Justices of peace, Captaines of our Castles, & Forts, Bayliffs and other Officers and Ministers whatsoeuer, of vs, our Heires and Successors to whom it doth & shall appertaine, that they and euery of them bee from time to time hereafter ayding & assisting vnto the said William Erskin Knight & Iohn Meldrum, their and either of their Executors, Administrators and Assignes, Substitutes, factors and seruants, and euery of them, in and concerning the premises vpon euery complaint to be made touching or concerning the same, according as Justice shall be by them or any of them desired and requested in that behalfe, and these presents or the inrolment thereof shall be vnto them & euery of them a sufficient warrant and discharge for the doing, performing and executing the same.

AND lastly we doe hereby signifie and declare our expresse will and pleasure to be, and we doe for vs, our Heire & Successors, straightly charge and command the said Maister, Wardens, and Assistants of the Trinitie house of Debtford Strond and their Successors, that they and euery of them, their factors and seruants appoynted by them shall and doe immediately from henceforth surcease & desist as well of and from erecting or setting vpp of any Light-house or Light-houses at Winterton aforesaid or within two miles compasse thereof as aforesaid as of and from the continuing or maintainig of any Light or Lights burning in any Lighthouse or Light-houses since March last by them there erected or set
vp

by, and that they and euery of them shall forbear from henceforth to demaunde, receiue or take any dutie, paymēt. allowance, or benefit of or from any our subiects or others trading or passing by or alongst the said Coast for or in respect of the same Light-house or Light-houses by or vnder any colour pretence or pretext whatsoeuer, any Act, Statute, Ordinance, Provision, Charter and Graunt, heretofore had made, enacted, or provided, or any other cause, consideration, matter, or thing, to the contrarie thereof in any wise, notwithstanding, and that vpon the paine and perill of incurring our high and heauie displeasure for their contempt or neglect of this our royall will and commandement herein so expressly declared in this behalfe, although expresse mention of the true yearely valew or certainty of the premises or of any of them, or of any other gift or graunt by vs or any of our Progenitors or Predecessors to the aforesaid Sir William Erskine & Iohn Meldrum or either of them before these times made in these presents, is not made, or any Statute, Act, Ordinance, Provision, Proclamation or Restraint heretofore had made, set forth, ordeyned or provided or any other matter, cause or thing whatsoeuer to the contrarie in any wise notwithstanding.

In witnesse whereof we haue caused these our Letters to be made Patents, witness our selfe at Westminster the 18 day of Feb. in our 15 yeare of our Raigne of England, and of Scotland the 51.

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